

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/639,554	FACE, S. ALLEN	
	Examiner John H Le	Art Unit 2863	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Applicant's amendment filed 12/08/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6,8-18,20-26 and 28-65.
3. The drawings filed on 12 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed 12/08/2004 has been entered and carefully considered.

The abstract has been amended.

Claims 1, 14, and 25 have been amended.

Claims 7,19, and 27 have been canceled.

Claims 34-65 have been added.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1-6, 8-18, 20-26, and 28-65 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In combination with other limitations of the claims, the cited prior arts fails to teach third means mounted on said movable platform and coupled to said odometer for monitoring said distance that said movable platform traverses during said measurement run and for generating a signal each time said movable platform traverses a predetermined amount of distance during said measurement run, wherein said signal (i) is realized by at least one of a visual alarm, an audible alarm and a tactile alarm, and (ii) serves as an indication to stop said movable platform during said measurement run, as recited in amended claim(s) 1.

In combination with other limitations of the claims, the cited prior arts fails to teach third means mounted on said movable platform for monitoring distance that said movable platform traverses during a measurement run on the surface wherein said on

run is defined by starting and stopping positions on the surface that are spaced apart from one another, said third means generating a signal each time said movable platform traverses a predetermined amount of distance during said measurement run wherein said signal (i) is realized by at least one of a visual alarm, an audible alarm and a tactile alarm, and (ii) serves as an indication to stop said movable platform during said measurement run, as recited in amended claim(s) 14.

In combination with other limitations of the claims, the cited prior arts fails to teach a linear position sensor coupled to said center support for measuring said substantially vertical movement of said center support as said movable platform traverses said surface during said measurement run, wherein measurements of said substantially vertical movement are indicative of measurements of curvature of the surface; a distance monitor mounted on said movable platform and coupled to said odometer for monitoring said distance that aid movable platform traverses during said measurement run and for generating a signal each time said movable platform traverses a predetermined amount of distance during said measurement run, said distance monitor including means for outputting said signal as at least one of a visual alarm, an audible alarm and a tactile alarm, wherein said signal serves as an indication to stop said movable platform during said measurement run, as recited in amended claim(s) 25.

In combination with other limitations of the claims, the cited prior arts fails to teach a movable platform having (i) a frame; (ii) at least four supports coupled to said frame and contacting the surface wherein said frame is supported above the surface;

(iii) a first three of said at least four supports being arranged in a linear alignment that defines a direction of travel for said frame, and a remainder of said at least four supports being spaced apart from said linear alignment; (iv) said first three defined by a front support, a rear support and a center support centered between said front support and said rear support; (v) said center support being a floating support that slides on the surface while being capable of substantially vertical movement; and (vi) at least one of said front support, said rear support and said center support being a wheel configured to roll in said direction of travel, as recited in claim(s) 34.

In combination with other limitations of the claims, the cited prior arts fails to teach a movable platform having (i) a frame; (ii) at least four supports coupled to said frame and contacting the surface wherein said frame is supported above the surface; (iii) a first three of said at least four supports being arranged in a linear alignment that defines a direction of travel for said frame, and a remainder of said at least four supports being spaced apart from said linear alignment; (iv) said first three defined by a front support, a rear support and a center support centered between said front support and said rear support; (v) said center support being a floating support that slides on the surface while being capable of substantially vertical movement; and (vi) said front support being a slidable support and said rear support being a wheel configured to roll in said direction of travel, as recited in claim(s) 40, 52, and 62.

In combination with other limitations of the claims, the cited prior arts fails to teach a movable platform having (i) a frame; (ii) at least four supports coupled to said frame and contacting the surface wherein said frame is supported above the surface;

(iii) a first three of said at least four supports being arranged in a linear alignment that defines a direction of ravel for said frame, and a remainder of said at least four supports being spaced apart from said linear alignment; (iv) said first three defined by a front support, a rear support and a center support centered between said front support and said rear support; (v) said center support being a floating support that slides on the surface while being capable of substantially vertical movement; and (vi) at least one of said front support and said rear support being a wheel configured to roll in said direction of travel, as recited in claim(s) 46 and 58.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John H. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2275. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

John H. Le
Patent Examiner-Group 2863
January 6, 2005



John Barlow
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